

SPECIES: GLOSSY IBIS

7-89-5 A

LOCATION: ON BOTH SIDES OF WELD COUNTY ROAD 1 (WHICH IS THE WELD-Boulder COUNTY LINE) 1/2 MI N. OF COLO HWY 52, NORTH OF ERIE.

DATE: 1989
5/7 2 GLOSSY IBIS AND 7 WHITE-FACED IBIS WERE SEEN, 5/8 1 GLOSSY AND 12 WHITE-FACED IBIS WERE SEEN, 5/9 AT LEAST 2 GLOSSY AND 30-40 WHITE-FACED IBIS WERE SEEN.

CONDITIONS: 5/7 WAS THE BEST LOOK WITH SUNLIGHT AT OUR BACK, THE BIRDS WERE SEEN THROUGH A 40 POWER KOWA SCOPE AT LESS THAN 200 FEET.

HABITAT: A SMALL IRRIGATION DITCH WITH MUD FLATS AND CATTAILS.

BEHAVIOR: FEEDING ALONG THE DITCH, OCCASIONALLY FLYING AROUND.

DISCRPTION: MEDIUM-SIZED WADER, BLACK WITH IRRIDESCENT GREEN AND CINNAMON, LONG DECURVED BILL. THE GLOSSY IBIS HAD A DARK BLUE FACE WITH A BLUEISH WHITE BORDER. THE BORDER DID NOT GO BEHIND EYE OR UNDER CHIN. IN THE SAME LIGHT, THE WHITE-FACED HAD A PINKISH FACE WITH A WHITER BORDER, WHICH DID GO BEHIND EYE AND UNDER CHIN. THE EYE, SEEN IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT, WAS BROWN FOR THE GLOSSY, RED FOR THE WHITE-FACED. THE BILLS OF BOTH SPECIES WERE OLIVE-GREY WITH PINKISH TONE IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT- THE WHITE-FACED BILL WAS PERHAPS A BIT PINKER, BUT NOT MUCH. THE LEGS AND FEET OF THE GLOSSY WERE BLUEISH-GREY, SHOWING A LITTLE PINKISH TONE IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT. THE KNEE AND ANKLE JOINTS WERE PINKISH AND SHOWED A STRONG CONTRAST WITH THE REST OF THE LEG THAT COULD EASILY BE SEEN AT A DISTANCE. IN THE SAME LIGHT THE WHITE-FACED IBIS LEGS WERE REDISH ALL THE WAY FROM THE TOES TO THE BODY, THE JOINTS WERE A LITTLE BRIGHTER BUT DID NOT SHOW A STRONG CONTRAST. SOME IMMATURE WHITE-FACED IBIS WERE PRESENT THAT DID NOT SHOW THE STRONG WHITE FACIAL BORDER AND DID SHOW SOME LEG-KNEE CONTRAST. THESE COULD EASILY BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE GLOSSY IBIS BY THE FACIAL COLOR, THE EYE COLOR, THE PATTERN OF THE BORDER OF THE FACE, AND THE GENERAL LACK OF THE BRIGHT BREEDING PLUMAGE SHOWN BY BOTH THE GLOSSY AND THE WHITE-FACED IBIS IN BREEDING CONDITION.

DISCUSSION: THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE BIRDS IN QUESTION WERE GLOSSY IBIS. ALL THE FIELD MARKS WERE OBSERVED IN GOOD LIGHT WITH GOOD BINOCULARS AND SCOPES. THE GLOSSY IBIS COULD EASILY BE PICKED OUT OF THE GROUP WITH BINOCULARS. INEZ TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS ON 5-8 WITH A 400MM LENS-UNFORTUNATELY THE BIRDS WERE NOT AS CLOSE AS THEY WERE WHEN FIRST SEEN ON 5-7 BUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS DO SHOW MOST OF THE FIELD MARKS. INCLUDED IS A TOO-MUCH ENLARGED PRINT OF THE BEST SHOT SHOWING BOTH SPECIES. I WILL SUBMIT SMALLER PRINTS OF THIS AND OTHER SHOTS ON REQUEST

OTHER OBSERVERS: MANY-INCLUDING BILL BROCKNER, MARK NIKAS, BOB SPENCER, PETER GENT, JOHN PRATHER, INEZ PRATHER

Signed: Bill Prather

ACCEPTED

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD UNUSUAL RECORD

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: GLOSSY IBIS | PLEGADIS FALCINELLUS
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s): SUNDAY MAY 7th 1989

Number of birds seen: ONE Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: BREEDING

Locality: 1/2 MILE N OF HIGHWAY 52 ON WELD CO ROAD ONE Elevation: 5200'

Nearest town: LONGMONT County: WELD

Time(s) observed: 2:30 pm -> 5:30 pm

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 90 MINUTES

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

DAN BRIDGES, ROBERT SPENCER

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers)

BILL PRATHER, JOHN PRATHER

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

SUNSHINE AND PARTIAL CLOUD COVER, SUN BEHIND US.

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10X BINOCLES & 20-40X TELESCOPE

Distance, and how measured: 50 M AT CLOSEST

If photographed, type of equipment and film: _____

Who else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

FEEDING IN A DITCH WITH 8 WHITE-FACED IBIS.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observe in the field:

THIS BIRD WAS WITH WHITE-FACED IBIS, SOME IN BREEDING PLUMAGE AND SOME IN FIRST YEAR PLUMAGE. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE BIRD LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE W-F IBIS TO ME. THIS BIRD APPEARED TO BE IN FULL BREEDING PLUMAGE WITH A BRIGHT SHEEN AND FULL GLOSS. ITS BILL WAS BROWNISH, BUT THE W-F IBIS BILLS LOOKED QUITE

Description (continued):

SIMILAR AND WERE NOT BRIGHT RED. THE BIRD HAD A VERY NARROW WHITE LINING TO THE FACIAL SKIN THAT WENT FROM THE TOP/BOTTOM OF BILL TO TOP/BOTTOM OF EYE. IT DID NOT GO AROUND EYE. IN THE W-F IBIS IN BREEDING PLUMAGE, THE WHITE WAS MUCH BROADER AND WENT COMPLETELY AROUND THE EYE. IN NON-BREEDING W-F IBIS, IT WAS THE SAME SHAPE, BUT QUITE DARK IN COLOR. THE LEGS AND FEET OF THE BIRD WERE GREEN WITH DULL RED KNEES. THE W-F IBIS HAD BRIGHT RED KNEES AND FEET. THIS BIRD HAD A BROWN EYE, WHEREAS THE BREEDING W-F IBIS HAD RED EYES (BROWNISH IN NON-BREEDING W-F IBIS, WHICH ALSO HAD PALER LEGS THAN THE BREEDING W-F IBIS).

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

MY FEELING IS THAT, IF THE DESCRIPTIONS AND DIFFERENCES IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE ARE CORRECT, THEN THIS BIRD WAS A GLOSSY IBIS.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

DITCH WITH REEDS, CATTAILS AND OPEN WATER.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

TOLD FROM WHITE-FACED IBIS BY 1) PALE EDGE OF FACIAL SKIN DO NOT GO AROUND EYE 2) GREEN LEGS AND FEET (RED FEET IN W-F IBIS) 3) BROWN EYE (NOT RED).

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

VERY FAMILIAR WITH WHITE-FACED IBIS.

HAVE SEEN GLOSSY IBIS SEVERAL TIMES IN EAST U.S. AND EUROPE

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE

b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation from memory
Date and time report was written: 7th MAY, 1989 8pm

Reporting observer: PETER R. GENT Signature: Peter R. Gent

Address: 55 SOUTH 35th ST, BOULDER, CO 80303.

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to:

CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205